~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

AMENDED

April 30, 2014

**H. 4346**

Introduced by Reps. Forrester and Allison

S. Printed 4/30/14--H.

Read the first time January 14, 2014.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 63‑7‑1230, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE IMMEDIATE ENTRY OF, AMONG OTHERS, FOSTER PARENTS IN THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO FILE A PETITION WITH THE COURT BEFORE DOING SO; TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR FILING A PETITION WITH THE COURT PURSUANT TO SECTION 63‑7‑1230 AND FOR PROVIDING NOTICE OF, SCHEDULING, AND HOLDING A HEARING; TO EXEMPT PETITIONS FILED PURSUANT TO SECTION 63‑7‑1230 FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 63‑7‑1620 AND TO CHANGE REQUIREMENTS REGARDING PARTY STATUS OF THE CHILD AND PARENTS OF THE CHILD IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS BEFORE A COURT MAY ORDER A PERSON TO BE ENTERED IN THE CENTRAL REGISTRY PURSUANT TO SECTION 63‑7‑1230, TO PROHIBIT PARTIES FOR WAIVING PLACEMENT IN THE REGISTRY AND TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO PETITION THE COURT FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; TO AMEND SECTION 63‑7‑1410, RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OF INDICATED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, SO AS TO PROVIDE AN APPEAL PROCESS FOR, AMONG OTHERS, FOSTER PARENTS FOR CASES INDICATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 63‑7‑1230; AND TO AMEND SECTION 63‑7‑1430, RELATING TO NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OF AN INDICATED FINDING OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT, SO AS TO ELIMINATE REFERENCE TO ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF CASES IN WHICH THERE HAS BEEN IMMEDIATE ENTRY OF, AMONG OTHERS, A FOSTER PARENT INTO THE CENTRAL REGISTRY.

Amend Title To Conform

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. (A) In order to better protect South Carolina’s children and to strengthen South Carolina’s foster care program, the Foster Care Study Committee is hereby created to review the current procedures for foster children, foster parents, and the Central Registry of child Abuse and Neglect, all contained in Subarticles 7 and 9 of chapter 7, Title 63.

(B)(1) The study committee must be composed of three members of the Senate, with one appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two appointed by the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and three members of the House of Representatives, with one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and two appointed by the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

(2) Vacancies in the study committee’s membership must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the manner of original appointment.

(3) A member of the study committee shall serve without compensation or per diem, but may receive mileage if paid by the entity that appointed the member.

(C) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees shall provide appropriate staffing for the study committee.

(D) The study committee shall make a report of the study committee’s recommendations to the General Assembly January 1, 2015, at which time the study committee must be dissolved.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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